

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 27, 2004, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Prior to this paper, Claims 1, 3-13, 15 and 17-20 were pending in the application. By this paper, Applicants cancel claims 1, 10 and 19, and do not add any claims. However, Applicants have amended the dependencies of claims 3-9 to depend from allowed claim 13, and amend the dependencies of claims 11, 12 and 20, to depend from allowed claim 15. Therefore, claims 3-9, 11-13, 15, 17-18 and 20 are now pending in this application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and for the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Savage for allowing claims 13, 15, 17 and 18.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ishibe (EP 0 561 001). Independent claims 1 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Ishibe. Independent claim 10 and the dependent claims stand variously rejected as being obvious in view of Ishibe, Ishibe when combined with De Bruyne (USP 4,983,467), and Ishibe when combined with De Bruyne and Fisher (USP 3,437,457), and Ishibe when combined with Fisher and Roberts (no reference number provided).

In order to advance prosecution, as seen above, independent claims 1, 10 and 19 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the remaining dependent claims are amended to depend from allowed claims. Applicants respectfully submit that entry and allowance of these amended dependent claims should be granted, as the amendments to the claims simply place the case into condition for allowance, and present no requirement for a new or modified

art search, since these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons that make claims 13, 15 and 17-18 allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

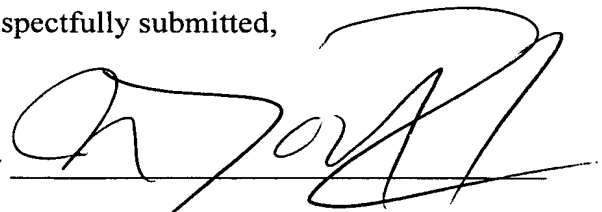
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Savage is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application

Respectfully submitted,

Date Dec 23, 2007

By



FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 295-4747
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Martin J. Cosenza
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 48,892